

IT'S TIME TO ACT ON GLOBAL WARMING

Back in 1992, I sponsored the first global warming bill ever introduced in Congress. I noted then that “experts from around the world agree that we must control carbon dioxide emissions to protect our planet from dangerous climate changes that might have devastating impacts... the potential effects include increased frequency and severity of droughts and hurricanes, reduced agricultural productivity, flooding of coastal areas and wetlands, inundation of drinking water aquifers with salt water, increased spread of infectious disease, and loss of important natural ecosystems.”

Congress didn't act in 1992, and it isn't acting today. But the consequences from global warming are no longer projections—they are here.

Eight of the ten warmest years on record have occurred since my 1992 bill. From the glaciers in Glacier National Park to the snows of Kilimanjaro and the Larson B ice-shelf in Antarctica, ice that has been here since the last ice age is disappearing or already gone. The permafrost supporting towns and roads in Alaska is melting rapidly, and the summer sea ice in the Arctic Ocean is diminishing each year.

The seasons are changing—maple sugar producers in Vermont are tapping trees earlier, plants are flowering earlier, and birds are migrating earlier. These changes are happening across the globe. And with warmer weather come bugs that are no longer being killed by the winter cold, such as the beetles that are destroying forests across the Southwest and Alaska.

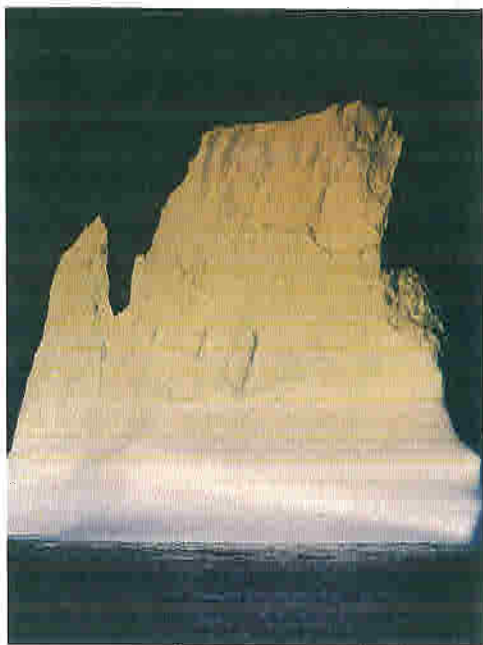
Last year broke hurricane records, and America experienced the devastating results of just a few such storms with Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

Now scientists are telling us that we have about ten years to act to avoid being locked into irreversible global warming on a scale that will transform the planet. They have identified what

we must accomplish to protect our children and future generations.

Their recommendations are the basis for the *Safe Climate Act* (H.R. 4652), which I introduced in June. The legislation would reduce dangerous emissions at the levels scientists say are needed to preserve a safe climate. It would accomplish this through a flexible, market-based emissions trading program and requirements for cleaner cars and more electricity from renewable energy and efficiency.

We've ignored the threat of global warming for almost too long...but there's still time to get this right.



THE IMPACT OF THE ADMINISTRATION'S ENERGY PLAN



According to Energy Secretary Samuel Bodman, the Administration has now implemented 95% of the policies proposed by Vice President Cheney's energy task force. Big oil companies are reporting record-high earnings, consumers face soaring prices for natural gas, heating oil and gasoline, and we are more dependent on foreign oil than ever.

On May 16, 2006, I released a five year review of the Administration's policies, which shows that gasoline prices have increased by 71% since the Administration announced its plan. The increase in all energy prices has outpaced the rate of inflation. The average American family is now paying approximately twice as much for energy as it did just five years ago. Moreover, foreign oil imports have grown to a record 65% of U.S. consumption and are expected to continue to increase.

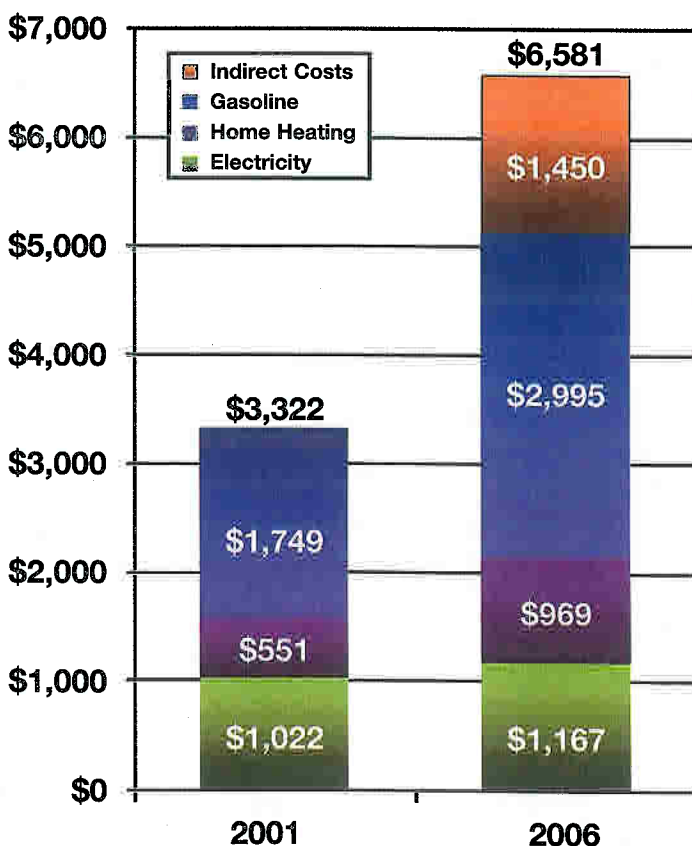
The report is available at:

www.democrats.reform.house.gov/story.asp?ID=1055

In the short-term, Congress should vigorously investigate whether energy companies have engaged in predatory pricing. I have joined a number of my concerned colleagues to urge House Republican leaders to allow for an investigation of gasoline prices. I am also a cosponsor of legislation (H.R. 3936, the Federal Response to Energy Emergencies Act), which would provide the Federal Trade Commission and the Justice Department with the authority to investigate and prosecute cases of gas price gouging at all points of the distribution chain.

In the long-term, we must enact policies that aggressively promote clean, alternative forms of energy. Wind, solar and other renewable forms of energy offer us the potential to move away from polluting energy sources that jeopardize our national security and toward cleaner, safer alternatives.

Energy Costs for American Families Have Increased By Thousands of Dollars



To learn more about my five year review of the Administration's energy policies please visit:

www.democrats.reform.house.gov

CONGRESSMAN WAXMAN REPORTS ON:

"THE CHECK IS IN THE MAIL"—OR IS IT?

Last fall, my district office began to receive an unprecedented number of complaints from our community about extremely late mail delivery, misdelivery and, in some cases, no delivery.

I have now opened hundreds of cases from constituents who reported serious problems about poor mail service. As the Ranking Member of the House Government Reform Committee—which has jurisdiction over the United States Postal Service (USPS)—I have launched an investigation into the reasons for this drastic deterioration in service. I have met with the Postmaster General, John Potter, to detail the problems and to obtain his commitment to a long-term solution.

A number of factors are to blame for the unsatisfactory service, including staffing shortages, transportation problems, and the closing of a processing facility. Please know that I will continue to press the postal service until we have a long-term solution to these problems. In the meantime, please keep reporting your concerns to my Los Angeles office so I can bring them to the attention of the postal service.



IDENTITY THEFT

As a California resident, you have the right to put a security freeze on your credit files. If you are the victim of identity theft and have a police report, you can freeze your files for free. If you are not an identity theft victim, but want to protect yourself, you can do so at a cost of \$10 for each of the three credit bureaus. To learn more, please visit:

www.house.gov/waxman/services_consumer_identity_theft.htm.



Congressman Waxman meets with student leaders at UCLA to discuss developments in the Middle East.